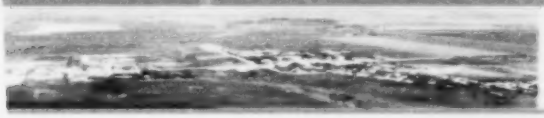

Village of Mirror
Dissolution Study
October 2003

Alberta
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VILLAGE OF MIRROR DISSOLUTION STUDY

Introduction

In May of 2003, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Minister) received a petition from electors of the Village of Mirror asking for a dissolution study. Section 130 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires a dissolution study be done if the Minister receives a sufficient petition from electors requesting a study. The petition was declared sufficient and the Minister initiated the dissolution study process.

What is dissolution?

Dissolution is the legal process of dissolving one municipal corporation and joining it with another municipal corporation.

The Village of Mirror (village) is a municipal corporation providing local government and municipal services to the residents. If the village dissolves, it would join with the municipal corporation of Lacombe County (county). The county would then provide local government and municipal services to the residents of the village.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a written report that in part:

- describes the current situation in the village;
- provides current information on municipal services and what change may occur if the village joins the county; and
- provides a comparison of village and county taxes for 2003.

Please note: *A dissolution study is not an audit or inquiry into the operation of the municipality*

Where does the Ministry get information for the study?

The Ministry gathers information from:

- municipal councils;
- municipal administrations;
- public; and
- ministry records.

What happens when the study is complete?

Residents receive the following:

- a copy of the study;
- notice of the date, time and location of a public meeting when Municipal Affairs will present the study and answer residents questions; and
- notice of "Vote on a Bylaw or Question" giving the time, date and location of the vote on the question of dissolution.

The development of Mirror

Mirror incorporated as a village in 1912 and was divisional headquarters for the CNR and a service center for the rural community. By the early nineties CNR had phased out its facilities in Mirror.

According to Statistics Canada, the village population was 492 in 2001. This is an increase of one percent from the 1996 census but, in general, population has been quite stable for many years.

The village has developed in a rather uncoordinated fashion and this makes services like roads, water and sewer lines expensive to construct and expensive to maintain.

The village owns a large amount of land, which is serviced, but remains undeveloped. Recently, the village council approved a new land sale policy to encourage the development and infilling of existing serviced lots. The availability of reasonably priced serviced land can be an attraction to new

residents and they also will consider factors such as property taxes, utility fees and amenities such as schools, recreational and cultural opportunities. Unless this land is utilized for its intended purpose, existing developed properties will continue to pay the cost of maintaining an under-utilized water, sewer and roadway systems.

Local government in Mirror

Mirror has a five-member council elected at large. There has been a history of good voter turnout and enough candidates willing to take on the task of being councillors. Voter turnout increased 42 percent between the 1995 and 2001 municipal elections.

On the surface, this seems to indicate a fair level of public interest in the village's affairs and in running for office. However, the operation of local government in Mirror has been unstable since the elections both in 1998 and in 2001.

Less than a year after the 1998 municipal elections residents submitted two petitions; one was requesting an inquiry into the village's affairs and one requesting a dissolution study.

The first dissolution study was completed in May of 2000, and the residents voted 60% in favour of remaining a village.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs conducted an inspection of the affairs of the municipality. The inspector presented the final report at a meeting of council attended by members of the public on February 12, 2001.

The inspection report contained a significant number of recommendations to improve council operations and administrative efficiency. There is little evidence suggesting the village implemented any of the recommendations effectively. The complete report is available at the village office

In the 2001 municipal elections, village electors returned one incumbent councilor and four new councilors. The incumbent councilor resigned in August of 2002 forcing a by-election in October of 2002 to fill the vacancy. The newly elected councilor resigned in February of 2003 leaving four councilors.

By this time there were disagreements within council relating to how the council should be conducting village business. Disagreements led to tied votes (2 in favour, 2 against) deadlocking the council so no decisions could be made including approving an annual budget. There is also evidence of issues between council and administration regarding the management of village operations.

In February of 2003, the deputy mayor made a resolution to dissolve the village council. The resolution ended in a tie vote and was therefore defeated. In March of 2003 both the mayor and deputy mayor resigned leaving the village council without a quorum and unable to carry out its duties. The Minister installed an Official Administrator to act as the village council so that the village could continue to operate.

In April of 2003, electors submitted another petition to the Minister requesting the second dissolution study for the village. The petition was declared sufficient and this dissolution study was started.

Given Mirror's current and past situation, the residents may want to ask the following question: can we elect a council who can:

- ***Be supported by the majority of the residents;***
- ***Carry out the duties, roles and responsibilities of a municipal council: as required by the Municipal Government Act and***
- ***Work together in the best interests of the community as a whole?***

Village of Mirror administration

The village employs six people either directly or by contract to carry out administrative and other municipal service duties. Over the last six years, there is written evidence suggesting poor council/staff relations and unresolved issues. There has been a significant turnover of village staff, which affects the delivery of services in the village. In light of the current and past experience with staff turnover, residents may want to ask the question:

- ***Does the village have the ability and the resources to attract and retain qualified staff?***

Village services

The Village of Mirror Growth and Infrastructure Master Plan, completed in November 2002, indicates the village's water and sewer system requires a considerable amount of work to bring it up to an acceptable standard. The underground piping, sewage lagoons and raw water storage ponds are identified as the major priorities. The village may be eligible for a portion of the cost from grants. The rest of the money would come from an increase in user fees, borrowing, or an increase in the property tax. This would not change whether the village dissolves or not.

Although this work may be expensive, there is no need to complete the work all at once. The complete study is available from the village office.

Please note:

The Village of Mirror Growth and Infrastructure Master Plan did not state that the quality of the village water supply was a problem.

Village finances

The village is managing financially. The 2002 financial statements show the village has financial assets of $285,007 and liabilities including long-term debt of $175,061. The village remained in a positive financial position at the end of 2002. Residents should be aware however that the village's financial reserves have steadily declined since 1999. At year-end 1999, village reserves were $211,487. By the end of 2002, the reserves were down to $69,087.

Reserves are important to set aside to pay for emergencies and things like repairs to the water and sewer system without having to borrow money or increase taxes.

Comparative information

This section compares some of the village's financial indicators to 18 other villages (the group) with populations varying between 401 and 550. The comparatives use the median of the group as the base line. Median is the middle point between the high and low values for the group. Use caution when interpreting the results because each municipality may have unique characteristics affecting how it compares to the group.

Residential equalized tax rate

Over the period 1997 to 2002, the village's residential equalized tax rate declined while the group median stayed fairly constant. For 2002, the village residential equalized tax rate of 22.1 mills was marginally higher than the group median of 21.3 mills.

Nonresidential equalized tax rate

Over the period 1997 to 2002 the village's nonresidential equalized tax rate declined while the group median stayed relatively constant. For 2002, the village nonresidential equalized tax rate of 25.4 mills was 10 percent higher than the group median of 23 mills.

Reserves per capita

The village's reserves per capita steadily declined between 1998 and 2002. For 2002, the village's reserves per capita were $140, which was 48 percent lower than the group median of $269. Healthy financial reserves help a municipality to pay for the future repair and replacement of its infrastructure. Because the village residential and nonresidential equalized tax rates declined over the same period, the village has been using its reserves to operate the municipality instead of increasing taxes to meet normal operating expenses. When the reserves are gone the tax rate will either have to rise again or the village will have to cut its expenses.

Sales and user charges per capita

Overall, the village's sales and user fees per capita increased 77 percent since 1997. For 2002 the village's total sales and user fees per capita was $435 while the group median was 32 percent lower at $294.

VILLAGE OF MIRROR DISSOLUTION STUDY

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village representation	The village has a 5-member council that is elected at large. This means that individual councilors represent all the village residents and not the residents of a particular area. The village council selects the Mayor at its annual organizational meeting. The first duty of village councilors prescribed in section 135 of the Municipal Government Act is: ❑ To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.	The county has a 7-member council that is elected from seven electoral divisions. This means that individual councilors represent the residents in their electoral division. The county council selects the Reeve at its annual organizational meeting. The first duty of county councilors prescribed in section 135 of the Municipal Government Act is: ❑ To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality. Village residents would reside in division two and be represented by the division two councilor Mr. Bill Knight.
Council meetings	The village council currently meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the community hall. Meetings are held during the evening beginning at 7 pm and are open to the public to listen and observe. If residents wish to talk to council or make a presentation at the meeting they normally would contact the village office to be included on the council agenda.	The county council meets twice a month on the second Thursday of each month and the second Tuesday preceding the second Thursday of each month at the county administration building. Meetings are normally held during the day beginning at 9 a.m. and are open to the public to listen and observe. If residents wish to talk to council or make a presentation at the meeting they normally would contact the county office to be included on the council agenda.
The village office	The village owns and operates the municipal office building. A portion of the village office space is leased to the Treasury Branch agent.	The county administration office is located on Highway 12 three miles west of the Town of Lacombe. The county would close the village office.
Payment of tax and utility bills	Village residents can pay their tax and utility bills at the village office during regular business hours.	County residents can pay their bills at the county office, by mail, or through internet banking.

VILLAGE OF MIRROR DISSOLUTION STUDY		
Services and Community Issues	**Current situation in the village**	**What residents can expect if the village joins the county**
Information	Village residents can contact the village office to get information during normal business hours between 8:30a.m. and 4:00p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The residents can also contact a councilor to get information.	County residents can contact the county office to get information during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents can also contact the councilor for their electoral division (division 2). The county provides an after hours emergency answering service. Lacombe County maintains a web site and publishes a monthly newspaper highlighting activities in the county as well as council meeting minutes.
Village staff	The Village has 6 staff positions: ❑ Chief administrative officer (currently vacant); ❑ Village office assistant (part time hourly) ❑ Family and community support services director (part time hourly) ❑ Public works foreman (contract) ❑ Accountant (contract); and ❑ Water treatment plant operator (contract).	Lacombe County has 59 permanent employees and 47 seasonal employees. The county currently has enough staff to look after the village services and will not need to retain the village employees. Village employees who are hourly wage employees would receive notice and be given a severance package similar to provincial government employees. Contactors would receive notice or pay in lieu of notice according to the terms of their contact.
Village debt	The village's long-term debt for the utility system includes: ❑ A $138,000 loan taken in 1988 and due to be paid out in 2003; ❑ A $59,339.42 loan taken in 1983 and due to be paid out in 2008; and ❑ A $75,540.82 loan taken in 1980 and due to be paid out in 2005. Payments on the long-term debt come from the current utility rates.	Payments on the long-term debt would continue to come from current utility rates. Payments on any new long-term debt for the village's utility system would come from one or a combination of: ❑ User fees; ❑ A special tax on all village properties ;or ❑ Frontage tax on specific properties.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village assets	The village has cash and other assets including land, buildings, equipment, and supplies.	The village's assets would transfer to the county at the time of dissolution. The county would attempt to sell vacant residential land, buildings and equipment not required for municipal purposes. The Order in Council dissolving the village would contain a provision that the county must place surplus cash (assets minus liabilities) in a separate reserve. The county could then use those funds to benefit the former village.
Tax due dates and penalties for late payments	Village residents are required to pay their taxes on or before September 30th. The village levies a 10 percent penalty on all taxes not paid prior to the end of office hours on September 30th. A further penalty of 10 percent is added on all taxes outstanding after the close of business on November 30th. All taxes unpaid by the close of business on December 31st are subject to an additional 10 percent penalty.	County taxes are due on or before August 31, of each year. A 6% penalty is levied on all outstanding taxes on September 1 and an additional 10% penalty is levied on all outstanding taxes on December 1.
Police services	The RCMP detachment at Bashaw provides police services in the village.	The RCMP detachment at Bashaw will continue to provide police services in the village.
Ambulance service	The village is a municipal member of the Bashaw and District Ambulance Authority. The village receives ambulance service from the Bashaw and District Ambulance Authority. The authority requisitions funds from the members to pay for the projected deficit. The 2003 requisition for the village was $4,366.73. The member contributions are based on the ratio of equalized assessment.	The county is a member of the Bashaw and District Ambulance Authority. The village will continue to receive ambulance service from the authority. The authority will requisition the former village's share of the funds from the county.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Mirror Volunteer Fire Department	The Mirror Volunteer Fire Department provides fire suppression services in the village. The county rents storage space in the village fire hall for a water tanker. The Mirror Volunteer Fire Department operates the tanker truck on behalf of the County and provides support for the Alix, Clive and Mirror pumper trucks. The county has an agreement with the Mirror Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire suppression service for Lacombe County residents who live within one mile of Mirror. The county contributes to the training of volunteer fire fighters as well as the overall operation of the Mirror Volunteer Fire Department.	The county would continue to support and operate the Mirror Volunteer Fire Department provided it is financially viable and is supported by the Mirror community.
Disaster services	The village has a disaster services plan.	The county would upgrade its disaster services plan to include the former village.
911 Dispatch	The Town of Lacombe Police Service provides 911 Dispatch services for the village. The village pays an annual fee of $600 for this service. This contract expires on December 31, 2004.	Lacombe County will continue to utilize the Town of Lacombe for 911 dispatch services.
Bylaws	The village has many bylaws in place to regulate and administer the village including such things as: ❑ Snow removal; ❑ Unsightly premises; ❑ Noise abatement; and ❑ Animal control.	Village bylaws will still be in force in the former village until the county council repeals or amends them.
Streetlights	The village streetlights are owned by Aquila. The budget for operating these streetlights was $15,000 for 2003. The village pays this cost from general revenues.	The county would enter into an agreement with Aquila for the continued operation of streetlights. There would be no separate charge to the residents for village streetlights.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Bylaw enforcement	Bylaw enforcement and animal control are contracted to Alberta Animal Services out of Red Deer. The village pays $70.00 for every routine patrol done in the village. The number of scheduled patrols is between 2 and 4 per month.	Lacombe County has three enforcement officers that are authorized to enforce the Highway Traffic Act as well as local bylaws. This service would be expanded to include the Village of Mirror. The county contracts its animal control services to a firm out of Red Deer.
Road maintenance	The village roadways are a mix of gravel and asphalt. Public works provides some summer maintenance and other work is contracted out. The village contracts out snow removal on roadways in the winter. Village road maintenance policy establishes the following order of priority: - Main street; - Side streets; - Alleys; and - Sidewalks.	The county operates its' own graders, snow plows and road maintenance equipment. The county would maintain the village roadways with its own equipment unless the equipment was not suitable for the work. If county equipment is not suitable or is already fully utilized the county would consider contracting out some of the village maintenance work. Snow removal is normally completed based on the following priorities: - Medical reasons; - County main roads; - Other asphalt & gravel roads; and - Public access roads. Snow removal in hamlets is normally completed following the clearing of the county's main roads.
Sidewalk maintenance	The village provides basic summer maintenance as required using its public work staff. In the winter, residents are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks adjoining their property within 24 hours of snowfall.	The county would provide summer maintenance using its public works department and contracted services. Residents would continue to be responsible for removing ice and snow from sidewalks adjoining their property.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Water supply and distribution	The village water supply and distribution system includes: ❑ Raw intake and water reservoirs; ❑ Water treatment plant; ❑ Underground piping, ❑ Fire hydrants; ❑ Treated water reservoir; ❑ Distribution pumps; and ❑ Water meters. The village contracts the operation of the water treatment plant to a licensed operator. The village operates the system on a cost recovery basis. This means that the utility rates will recover the cost of providing the service.	The county would operate the water supply and distribution according to the licensing requirements of Alberta Environmental Protection. The county would continue using a licensed contract operator for the water treatment plant. The county would continue to operate the system on a cost recovery basis.
Wastewater collection and treatment	The village collection and treatment system includes underground piping, lift stations, and a multi cell lagoon treatment system. The village lift-station and lagoon system is at or near capacity and requires some remedial work. The village operates the system on a cost recovery basis. This means the utility rates will pay for the cost of providing the service.	The county will operate the wastewater collection and treatment system according to the licensing requirements of Alberta Environmental Protection. The county would continue to operate the system on a cost recovery basis.
Waste management	Mirror is part of the Lacombe Regional Waste Management Authority. The Authority requisitions the village on an annual basis for disposal costs. Curbside garbage pickup is provided for village residents and funded from general revenues.	The county is part of the Lacombe Regional Landfill Authority. The Authority would requisition the county for the former village's share of the disposal costs. The county would continue curbside garbage pickup in the village on a cost recovery basis.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
What will happen to the utility rates?	Village utility rates include: - Water; - Sewer; and - Curbside garbage pickup. The village's current practice is to set utility rates to operate the utility systems on a full cost-recovery basis including any long-term debt.	County utility rates would include: - Water; - Sewer; and - Curbside garbage pickup. The county would set utility rates to operate the utility systems on a cost recovery basis including any long-term debt.
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	Although the village employs a part time FCSS director, the programs are heavily dependant on volunteer support. Programs are planned and supervised by a committee of five members. The village's FCSS programs include: - Senior's Lawn Care Program; - Membership in the Life Long Learning Council; - Providing workshops and programs in the village as interest warrants; - A Moms & Tots program; - An annual Family Day Carnival; - The "Fun for Fours" program for children aged four and five; and - A soccer program; and In 2003 the village budgeted $38,670 for FCSS and FCSS Wellness. Mirror FCSS formed a partnership with Lacombe County to offer home support assistance to clients in the county in the area around Mirror.	All FCSS programs offered by the county are delivered through agreements with other agencies or organizations. The county FCSS programs include: - Family School Liaison Program; - School Resource Officer Program; - Respite Support Program; and - Extended Home Support Program. Village residents may lose some individual FCSS programs that do not fit the current county programming policy.

Services and Community Issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Outdoor Arena	The outdoor arena is owned and operated by the village. Currently, maintenance of the arena is the responsibility of the public works foreman.	Lacombe County would look for a community group or organization to look after the operation of the outdoor skating rink. The county provides an annual grant of $1,170 to groups or organizations that look after community skating rinks in the county.
Campground	The village owns and operates a 31-stall campground.	The county would look for a community group or organization to operate the campground.
Cemetery	The Mirror cemetery is located outside of the village, within Lacombe county. There is a volunteer cemetery board that is responsible for looking after the cemetery. Cemetery records are kept at the village office. The village and the county have a joint agreement to operate the cemetery.	The county would keep the cemetery records and continue to utilize a voluntary cemetery board to look after the cemetery. The county would continue providing operating assistance for the cemetery.
Community Hall	The Mirror Community Hall is owned and operated by the village. The village charges a fee for use of the hall and contracts out custodial services.	The county would look for a non-profit society or other organization to operate the community hall. However, the county does not provide operational assistance for community halls elsewhere in the county. Insurance would be available through the county insurer for community halls.
Library	A volunteer board runs the Mirror library. The library building belongs to the board, and the land belongs to the village. The library board receives an annual grant from the village, which is used to pay for the building utility costs. Mirror is a member of the Parkland Regional Library System. The village pays the annual membership fee of $2,280 along with the library's insurance costs.	The county is also a member of the Parkland Regional Library System and provides funding for libraries through the regional library system. The county would encourage the existing library board to operate the village library. However, the county does not provide operating grants for community libraries elsewhere in the county.

Museum	The Mirror Museum is operated by a non-profit society. They receive a $500 annual grant from the village and no-charge photocopy and fax services. The village owns the museum property and maintains the grounds.	The county would continue to encourage the operation of the Mirror Museum through the existing non-profit society. However the county does not provide operational grants to museums.
Jolly Seniors Centre	A volunteer board runs the Mirror Jolly Seniors Social Club. They lease their property from the village at the cost of one dollar per year. The club is responsible for paying all utility costs as well as insurance for the building.	The county would encourage the Jolly Seniors Social Club to continue operating the center under the same arrangements as it had with the village. The county does not provide operating grants for senior centers.
Curling Club	The Curling Club is a non-profit society run by a volunteer board. The village owns the land and curling arena. The curling society leases the building for one dollar per year. The society pays for all utilities as well as their own insurance. The village provides no additional funding.	The county would encourage the non-profit society to continue operating the curling club under the same arrangements.
Mirror Recreation Society	A volunteer board runs the recreation society. They lease the ball diamonds from the village and pay the village to cut the grass. The society also runs a playground program in the summer using student employees through the Student Temporary Employment Program.	The county would encourage the society to continue to operate the ball diamonds. The society may have to contract the grass cutting from another source.

Appendix 1

2003 residential tax rate comparison

Residential tax rate	Village	County
Municipal	20.652	3.140
Seniors foundation	0.087	0
School	5.121	4.843
2003 Tax Rate	25.860	7.983

Conclusion:
The 2003 county residential tax rate was 69 percent lower than the village.

2003 nonresidential tax rate comparison

Nonresidential tax rate	Village	County
Municipal	20.652	4.450
Seniors foundation	0.087	0
School	7.055	5.420
2003 Tax Rate	27.794	9.870

Conclusion:
The 2003 county nonresidential tax rate was 64 percent lower than the village.

2003 estimated residential tax comparison

The tables consider three actual residential properties in Mirror. By applying the 2003 village and county tax rates to the assessments of these properties, residents can compare the expected property taxes if Mirror remains a village with the expected taxes if Mirror joins the county.

2003 estimated residential tax if Mirror remains a village

Sample properties	2003 tax rate	Assessment	Taxes
Residential 1	25.860	$9,150	$236.62
Residential 2	25.860	$40,490	$1,047.07
Residential 3	25.860	$85,090	$2,200.43

2003 estimated residential tax if Mirror joins the county

Sample properties	2003 tax rate	Assessment	Taxes
Residential 1	7.983	$9,150	$73.04
Residential 2	7.983	$40,490	$323.23
Residential 3	7.983	$85,090	$679.27

2003 estimated residential municipal cost comparison summary

Sample properties	If Mirror remains a village	If Mirror joins the county	Change	Percentage Change
Residential 1	$236.62	$73.04	-$163.58	-69%
Residential 2	$1,047.07	$323.23	-$723.84	-69%
Residential 3	$2,200.43	$679.27	-$1,521.16	-69%

Conclusion:
In 2003, these properties would have paid 69 percent lower taxes if they had been located within the county.

VILLAGE OF MIRROR DISSOLUTION STUDY

Appendix 3

2003 estimated nonresidential tax comparison

The tables consider three actual nonresidential properties in Mirror. By applying the 2003 village and county tax rates to the assessments of these properties, residents can compare the expected property taxes if Mirror remains a village with the expected taxes if Mirror joins the county.

2003 estimated nonresidential tax if Mirror remains a village

Sample properties	2003 tax rate	Assessment	Taxes
Nonresidential 1	27.794	$18,760	$521.42
Nonresidential 2	27.794	$61,640	$1,713.22
Nonresidential 3	27.794	$97,260	$2,703.24

2003 estimated nonresidential tax if Mirror joins the county

Sample properties	2003 tax rate	Assessment	Taxes
Nonresidential 1	9.870	$18,760	$185.16
Nonresidential 2	9.870	$61,640	$608.39
Nonresidential 3	9.870	$97,260	$959.96

2003 estimated nonresidential municipal cost comparison

Sample properties	If Mirror remains a village	If Mirror joins the county	Change	Percentage Change
Nonresidential 1	$521.42	$185.16	-$336.26	-64%
Nonresidential 2	$1,713.22	$608.39	-$1,104.83	-64%
Nonresidential 3	$2,703.24	$959.96	-$1,743.28	-64%

Conclusion:

In 2003, these properties would have paid 64 percent lower taxes if they had been located in the county.

What is the next step?

Alberta Municipal Affairs will conduct a public meeting to discuss the dissolution study on October 20, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the Mirror Community Hall.

A vote on the question of dissolution will take place on October 27, 2003 between 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. at the Mirror Community Hall, in the basement.

An advance vote will be held on October 25, 2003 between 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. at the Mirror Community Hall, in the basement.

The question on the ballot is:

"Do you wish the Village of Mirror to dissolve and become part of Lacombe County?"

Alberta Municipal Affairs will administer the vote in accordance with the local authorities Election Act.

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- At least 18 years old;
- Canadian citizen;
- Resident of Alberta for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding the vote; and
- Resident of the Village of Mirror on the day of the vote.

What happens to the results of the vote and the study?

The results of the vote, issues raised at the public meeting, and the information in the study will help the Minister determine whether to recommend to the Provincial Cabinet that the Village of Mirror should dissolve and join Lacombe County.

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the provincial Cabinet, and the Cabinet agrees, the village council and administration would work with the county to wind up the village's affairs. The recommended date for dissolution would be December 31, 2003.

What will happen if the village does not dissolve?

The village would continue providing services as long as the residents continue to pay taxes. The county would continue to work with the village.

If I need more information, whom can I contact?

Terry Broome or Mark Cooper at Alberta Municipal Affairs toll-free by dialing 310-0000 and asking for 427-2225.